

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 1.

Please cancel without prejudice Claims 2 - 3.

1. (currently amended) A method of filtering scraps of paper from an air flow, comprising the steps of:

providing a chamber having a first inlet and a first outlet;
retaining a plate having a plurality of openings formed therethrough in said first chamber;

detecting a difference in pressure across a thickness of said plate; and

providing a second chamber having a dust inlet and a second outlet, connecting said first outlet to said dust inlet;

opening a paper disposal opening below said plate, closing said dust inlet, opening a bypass inlet in said second chamber when said difference in pressure exceeds a specified amount; and

flowing air having scraps of paper through said first chamber.

Claims 2 - 3 (canceled)

4. (original) The method of filtering scraps of paper from an air flow of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one compressed air manifold adjacent a front surface of said plate, flowing compressed air through said at least one compressed air manifold to remove the scraps of paper clinging to said plate.

5. (original) A method of filtering scraps of paper from an air flow, comprising the steps of:

providing a first chamber having a first inlet and a first outlet;

retaining a plate having a plurality of openings formed therethrough in said first chamber;

flowing air having scraps of paper through said first chamber; and

opening a paper disposal opening below said plate, closing said first outlet, when the air flow through said plate is impeded.

6. (original) The method of filtering scraps of paper from an air flow of claim 5, further comprising the step of:

providing a second chamber having a dust inlet and a second outlet, connecting said first outlet to said dust inlet.

7. (original) The method of filtering scraps of paper from an air flow of claim 5, further comprising the step of:

detecting a difference in pressure across a thickness of said plate to determine if air flow is impeded through said plate.

8. (original) The method of filtering scraps of paper from an air flow of claim 5, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one compressed air manifold adjacent a front surface of said plate, flowing compressed air through said at least one compressed air manifold to remove the scraps of paper clinging to said plate.

9. (original) A method of filtering scraps of paper from an air flow, comprising the steps of:

providing a first chamber having a first inlet and a first outlet;

retaining a plate having a plurality of openings formed therethrough in said first chamber;

providing a second chamber having a dust inlet and a second outlet, connecting said first outlet to said dust inlet;

flowing air having scraps of paper through said first and second chambers;

opening a paper disposal opening below said plate, closing said dust inlet, opening a bypass inlet in said second chamber when the air flow through said plate is impeded; and

providing means for removing the scraps of paper from said plate.

10. (original) The method of filtering scraps of paper from an air flow of claim 9, further comprising the step of:

detecting a difference in pressure in front of said plate and behind said plate to determine if air flow is impeded through said plate.

11. (original) The method of filtering scraps of paper from an air flow of claim 9, further comprising the step of:

providing said means for removing the scraps of paper as at least one compressed air manifold, said at least one compressed air manifold being adjacent a front surface of said plate, flowing compressed air through said at least one compressed air manifold to remove the scraps of paper clinging to said plate.

Please add Claims 12 - 14.

12. (new) A method of filtering scraps of paper from an air flow, comprising the steps of:

providing a chamber having a first inlet and a first outlet; retaining a plate having a plurality of openings formed therethrough in said first chamber;

detecting a difference in pressure across a thickness of said plate;

providing at least one compressed air manifold adjacent a front surface of said plate, flowing compressed air through said at least one compressed air manifold to remove the scraps of paper clinging to said plate; and

flowing air having scraps of paper through said first chamber.

13. (new) The method of filtering scraps of paper from an air flow of claim 12, further comprising the step of:

providing a second chamber having a dust inlet and a second outlet, connecting said first outlet to said dust inlet.

14. (new) The method of filtering scraps of paper from an air flow of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

opening a paper disposal opening below said plate, closing said dust inlet, opening a bypass inlet in said second chamber when said difference in pressure exceeds a specified amount.